

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

THE MEDALLION

WINTER 2016

CONSERVING COWTOWN

Local Efforts Preserve Cultural Districts
for Heritage Tourists





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www.thc.state.tx.us thc@thc.state.tx.us

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TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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WINTER 2016

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Photo by Andy Rhodes.

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The THC's archeology programs are significant economic
catalysts throughout the state.

**Economic Impact
of Texas Archeology Month**



PER YEAR

**La Belle Shipwreck
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DIRECT INPUT
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HOURS DONATED
SINCE 2013



Friends,

Preserving Texas' compelling history has always been a priority of mine. Our state has a rich heritage, and I'm thankful that the Texas Historical Commission takes such great pride in preserving our unique stories and cultural treasures.

As a Fort Worth resident, I am proud of my city's history and its contributions to Texas' distinguished past. I served as Fort Worth's mayor from 1991–95 before being elected to Congress representing the 12th District, which includes much of Tarrant, Parker, and Wise counties.

As a member of Congress, I am an active member of the Congressional Historic Preservation Caucus and have co-sponsored legislation to reauthorize the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF) for another 10 years. The HPF assists Texas communities by helping finance the Texas Historical Commission's grants for the Certified Local Government Program, which includes Tarrant County, Fort Worth, Arlington, Grapevine, and Mansfield.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I also have the opportunity to support funding for the important work of historic preservation programs using HPF dollars. This translates into action in Fort Worth, with projects like the recent restoration of historic Sundance Square, rehabilitation of many downtown buildings, and encouraging thoughtful redevelopment in and around the Stockyards District.

It is my hope that all Texans have an opportunity to learn the wonderful and rich history of our state, and continue to share the stories of our past. I'm proud to represent the 12th District in Washington and will continue to support critical efforts to preserve the heritage of Texas and our nation.

Sincerely,

Kay Granger
U.S. Congress, 12th District of Texas

The Marker Maker's Marker

150-Year-Old Southwell Company Receives Its Own Designation

By Andy Rhodes
Managing Editor, The Medallion

"Y'all are lucky—you're getting to see the process of a marker being born."

With these words, Shannon Disney welcomed a crew of Texas Historical Commission (THC) staffers to witness the birth of not just any marker, but the Official Texas Historical Marker for the Southwell Company—the 150-year-old San Antonio foundry that has created more than 16,000 THC markers over the past six decades.

By the time the Southwell marker was ready to enter the world, a small crowd had eagerly gathered around its molding encasement. An acrid metallic smell permeated the air and steam rose from the mold as it slowly opened to reveal the freshly minted aluminum marker. A round of applause erupted from the group upon seeing the text honoring The Southwell Company. And the biggest smiles were on the faces of brothers Billy and Scott Southwell—great-grandsons of company namesake George Southwell.

"We finally got our marker!" beamed Scott, vice president of the company. "It was so surreal to see, and I even learned something from reading it. We're in the history business, but it took us making our own marker for me to learn some of the details about my own family's history."

Scott explains that a marker originates with a historical inspiration that eventually becomes the text, which is then transposed to a large plastic sheet called a negative (formerly created with photography equipment). Computers have replaced many of the manual tasks previously handled by employees, says company president Billy Southwell, who

HOW TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

1. The marker layout is printed onto a plastic negative.
2. A sand-based mold is developed from a chemical-based impression.



remembers painstakingly setting the text with individual letters.

"Back then, there was a guy from the THC who would come in here, and every once in a while he'd say, 'Wait—we need to put a comma in this spot.' Then we'd have to start all over again," he recalls.

Scott adds, "When I was a kid, it was my job to work with all those letters. I had to clean the paint off of them individually with thinner and place each one back in the appropriate drawer section. I don't miss doing that at all."

The brothers explain that the next step involves a trade-secret technique of developing plastic-like impressions for the molds. Employee Cruz Urtado creates them with a mysterious chemical mix and a few large pieces of machinery.

"This whole process is awesome," he says. "I was in the military, so I'm used to working with my hands to build and fix things. I've also learned a lot of history while working here."

The marker's final impression is created with a special blend of sand



3. Aluminum ingots await melting.

4. The furnace melts aluminum at 1400 degrees.

5. The molten metal is transferred in a kettle.

6. The liquefied metal is poured into the mold.

Step 7, opposite. Brothers Scott and Billy Southwell admire the freshly minted THC historical marker honoring their family's company.



and clay that becomes the basis for the metal mold. Bars and scraps of aluminum are heated to 1400 degrees in a barrel-shaped container until the metal becomes a molten glowing-orange liquid. It is then carefully poured into a small hole in the mold, where the liquid metal spreads throughout channels inside. After about 30 minutes, the mold is opened, resulting in a distinctive sensory blend of clanging metal equipment, pungent smell, and gleaming fresh aluminum product.



Step 8. A Southwell employee removes metal remnants.

Below: A completed THC medallion.



to develop what would become the THC's historical markers.

"I remember being a little kid and seeing

them sitting around our kitchen table discussing the marker design plan," Billy says. "I woke up at 3 a.m. and they were still at the table talking about it. They were all brilliant, hard-working men."

By the time Billy took over operations in the 1980s, he shifted the company's focus from smaller items like decals and stamps to larger-scale projects like plaques and signage.

"It's hard to believe there are more than 16,000 of those historical markers across Texas now," he says.

"It seems like we've always been working with the THC. It's not even like they're customers—they really feel like family." ★

Far left: Young Billy Southwell and his grandfather Wilson in the 1950s.

Left: Southwell's building before its 1960s expansion.

Several steps still remain: metal sections are cut, ground, and polished, and small remnants in the letters and graphics are removed with a hammer and specialized chisels. The marker's final stop is the painting area, where it's colored entirely black before the top layer of text is shaved off to reveal the shiny aluminum letters beneath.

Scott Southwell explains that the company's history dates to 1866, when it produced stencils for many of San Antonio's wool and cotton shipments.

In 1914, George Southwell purchased the business, when its primary focus was manufacturing rubber stamps.

"We've always been

some sort of marking device company—from wooden stencils to rubber stamps to metal signage," he says.

Billy Southwell adds that in 1936, his grandfather Wilson helped create the Texas Centennial markers' bronze stars and wreaths with Gutzon Borglum, who designed Mount Rushmore. In the early 1960s, Billy and Scott's father Bill worked with then-Texas State Historical Survey Committee Chairman John Ben Shepperd and Gov. John Connally



View a THC Southwell video at www.thc.state.tx.us/blog.



TEXAS COWBOY HALL OF FAME

FEATURING
STERQUELL WAGON COLLECTION
JOHN JUSTIN TRAIL OF FAME
GIFT SHOP AND OLD TIME PHOTO PARLOR OPEN DAILY

MUSEUM
GIFT SHOP
OLD TIME PHOTO PARLOR



CONSERVING COWTOWN

Local Efforts Preserve Cultural Districts
for Heritage Tourists

Text and photos by Andy Rhodes, *The Medallion* Managing Editor

A shockwave permeated throughout the nation's preservation community last year when news broke about a massive development project near Fort Worth's historic Stockyards District. Would it endanger this iconic heritage destination? What could the community do to preserve the Stockyards from unwanted encroachment or, even worse, demolition?

With this cherished cultural resource being possibly endangered by a proposed circa 1 million square-foot commercial project, Jerre Tracy, the executive director of Historic Fort Worth, Inc. (HFW), immediately set to work.

"The Stockyards are the number-one, most important component of our city," she says. "The district is a power machine for us. It is who we are."

Tracy and her fellow preservationists focused their efforts on what they felt would be the most effective preservation tool: establishing a local historic district. By last November, their determination paid off when the City of Fort Worth announced it was establishing the boundaries for a Stockyards local historic district.

"That's going to help tremendously," says Terry Colley, a committee chairman with HFW and former deputy executive director of the Texas Historical Commission (THC). "It's nice to tie everything together in one place—a National Register district, state designations, and a local district. I'm not opposed to development, but it needs to be done wisely, and one of the best tools for making that happen is a local historic district."

The city's action is the first step in the official designation process, which includes several rounds of public input before a proposed final vote later this year. Although changes can be made to the proposed plans based on feedback from the public and city officials, Colley believes the outcome will result in the Stockyards' character being preserved for future generations of heritage tourists to enjoy.

His primary concern with the development project as it was initially proposed was the prospect of the district being surrounded by new buildings. Colley felt the incompatibility of these large structures would detract from the traditional Cowtown-era district's distinctive sense of place.

"This has always been where the west begins—you can still see the sky from here and experience that image of the wide open plain," he says. "When people hear the name Fort Worth, they almost always think of Cowtown. The Stockyards are an absolute on-the-ground representation of that."

Tracy expands on this idea by adding that the Stockyards' overall impact on the city is immeasurable.

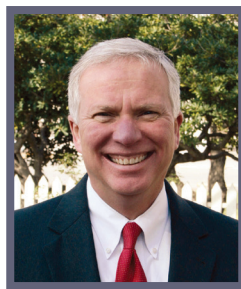
She notes that the cattle barons who made fortunes in the livestock business invested in ranches and businesses that, in turn, profited from oil holdings and expansion. The subsequent generations of entrepreneurs and philanthropists helped finance what has become the city's downtown business district and adjacent Cultural District.

"Our whole culture is Stockyards-based," Tracy says. "It's our constant generator."

Tracy and Colley both stress the value of establishing local historic districts to a community's heritage tourism efforts. This allows residents to directly advocate for preserving irreplaceable resources. By safeguarding the commercial and residential structures that house museums, Main Street destinations, and bed-and-breakfasts, travelers will continue to seek out and support the businesses that define a city's historical character.

According to Tracy, the most important aspect of creating a local historic district is effective communication. She says the approach HFW used with the Stockyards can be applied to any Texas city facing similar issues, regardless of its size.

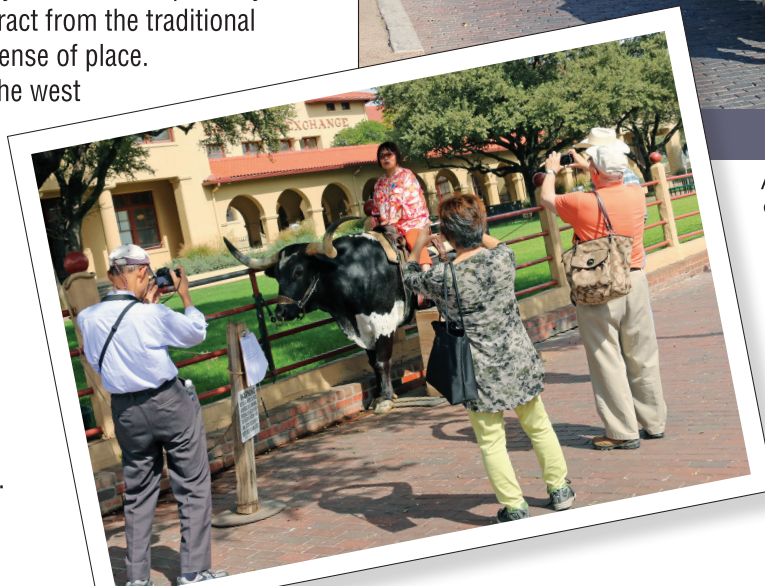
The first step she suggests is thoroughly researching city ordinances, which helps preservationists and local lawmakers understand the rules and how decisions can be made within those parameters. Once this knowledge is obtained, it's important to organize a group and share the information with stakeholders who will be involved with establishing a local historic district. Tracy recommends including city officials, media, legal experts, architects, former planning and zoning members, realtors, and political consultants, among others.



Terry Colley, HFW
Committee Chairman



Above: The Stockyards' cattle drive is held twice daily.



Left: Visitors pose in front of the Livestock Exchange Building.

“If you don’t have these people working together for preservation, you’ll never get out of the basement of influence. We had to stumble into it,” Tracy says. “When everyone’s working together, you can have a tremendous influence. That’s how we changed the game.”

She specifically suggests working closely with the media and developing educational programs like a Most Endangered Places list, which HFW introduced in 2004. Ten years later, HFW placed the Stockyards on its list, which played a role in the National Trust for Historic Preservation adding the district to its own Most Endangered list in 2015.

“We as preservationists know what endangers a building or district,” Tracy says. “When the greater community gets a visual representation of recognizable buildings in their town that are threatened, they ask, ‘What’s happening to our city?’, ‘Who owns that place?’, and ‘What can we do to help?’”

She adds that the THC is instrumental in assisting with preservation programs and tools, including the Certified Local Government program, preservation tax incentives, and the Texas Preservation Trust Fund. In addition, preservation organizations may consider hosting community events like home and garden tours and art and fashion shows to raise their profile and give back to the community.

Colley references his 30 years in historic preservation as a fitting background to analyze and evaluate Fort Worth’s appeal as a travel destination.

“To me, the Stockyards have all the things we’re trying to get in place for a successful heritage tourism location—it’s easily accessible from major interstates, there are plenty of incredible historic structures, and there’s a unique story that reflects the essence of the community,” he says. “This is a great city to visit because there’s just so much authenticity

here. And the Stockyards are one of the best representatives of that in Fort Worth.”

FORT WORTH FUN

So why are the Stockyards so special? Because visitors experience a genuine sense

of time travel when they enter the district. Livestock pens, a rodeo arena, and dozens of other historic structures tell the real stories of the epic cattle drives and rugged trail hands that trampled their tracks here more than a century ago.

A good place to start is the **Visitor Information Center** (stockyardstation.com, 817-625-9715), offering maps, brochures, and knowledgeable staff from the Fort Worth

Convention and Visitors Bureau. Across the street, the stately 1902 **Livestock Exchange Building** houses the modest yet memorable **Stockyards Museum** (stockyardsmuseum.org, 817-625-5087), containing dozens of exhibits showcasing livestock auctions and their colorful characters. Be sure to step out the back door to see the pens holding the impressive longhorn herd, which clomps atop the Stockyards’ brick streets during twice-daily cattle drives (11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.).

The 1908 **Cowtown Coliseum** (cowtowncoliseum.com, 817-625-1025) is home to one of the world’s oldest indoor rodeo arenas. It hosts the Stockyards Championship Rodeo on Friday and Saturday evenings, but visitors are encouraged to step inside the arena during the week to get a true sense of its Western grit and glamor.

Across the street is the **Texas Cowboy Hall of Fame** (texascowboyhalloffame.com, 817-626-7131). Located in one of the Stockyard District’s 1912 horse and mule brick barns, the museum features compelling exhibits with cowboy and Chisholm Trail memorabilia, a sizable antique carriage collection, and a hall of fame honoring dozens of famous cowboys and cowgirls from Texas.

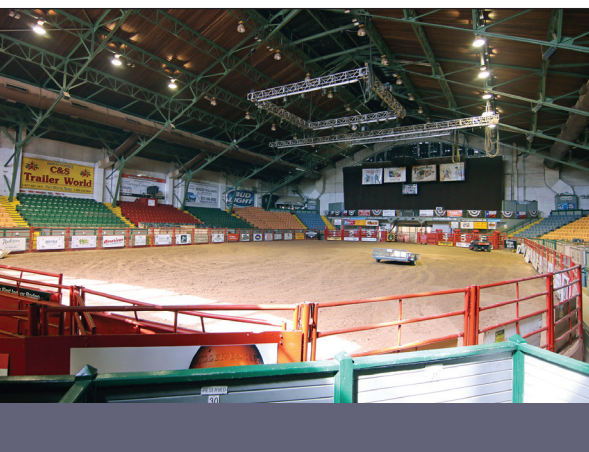
Just a few miles south lies the remarkable **Sundance Square District** (sundancesquare.com, 817-255-5700). Dating to the late 1800s and early 1900s, the 35-block area is brimming with restaurants, galleries, museums, boutiques, and nightlife. The district is named for the Sundance Kid, who, along with fellow legendary outlaws Butch Cassidy and his famed Wild Bunch, occasionally conducted business in Fort Worth.

Sundance Square is an ideal destination to explore on foot. Start at the district’s hub (Third and Main streets), recently renovated to include a bustling plaza offering colossal umbrellas for shade, a frolicking fountain, and an iconic mural depicting the legendary Chisholm Trail.

With Main Street as a primary artery, head north to visit the grand 1895 **Tarrant County Courthouse**, a National Register site and Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL). The red granite Renaissance Revival building bears a resemblance to the Texas State Capitol, and includes a small first-floor museum and elaborate interior detailing beneath its four-story clock tower.



The Bass Performance Hall is in the Sundance Square district.



The famous arena inside Cowtown Coliseum.

Continue south along Main or Commerce streets to see other architectural gems in the district, including the stately Bass Performance Hall, the nearby 1930 Art Deco Sinclair Building (an RTHL), and the nostalgic 1911 Peters Brothers Hats shop. Finish with an urban escape at the Fort Worth Water Gardens, featuring flowing water on terraced granite surfaces designed by noted architect Philip Johnson.

Another cultural destination in Sundance Square is the **Sid Richardson Museum**, (sidrichardsonmuseum.org, 888-332-6554), a small art gallery highlighting Old West paintings by Frederic Remington and Charles M. Russell from the collection of legendary Texas oilman and philanthropist Sid W. Richardson. In addition, the city's **Downtown Marker Program** (fortworthheritage.com) features nearly two dozen bronze markers scattered throughout downtown, showcasing the events and people that shaped the city's history, including topics such as Gamblers and Gunfights, Cynthia Ann Parker, and Architectural Diversity.

Fort Worth's early entrepreneurial families helped develop what is now known as the city's Cultural District, located just a few miles west of Sundance Square. Their investment in world-class and regional art became the basis for three prominent museums that rank among Texas' finest.

The jewel in the crown is the **Kimbell Art Museum** (kimbellart.org, 817-332-8451). Fort Worth philanthropist Kay Kimbell donated his art collection and personal fortune to start the museum in 1972. Its Louis Kahn-designed building enhances visitors' experiences by bathing the museum's concrete walls and acclaimed artwork with indirect natural light from overhead barrel-vault arches. The art ranges in period from antiquity to the 20th century, with impressive pieces from masters such as Michelangelo, Rembrandt, Monet, Picasso, and Matisse.

Next door, the **Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth** (themodern.org, 817-738-9215) is similarly stunning for its building. Designed by renowned Japanese architect Tadao Ando, "The Modern" appears to float upon a placid pond. The visual intrigue is equaled inside, where more than 2,600 significant works of international modern art await, from Andy Warhol's colorful silkscreens to Donald Judd's minimalist art installations.

Nearby, the **Amon Carter Museum** (cartermuseum.org, 817-738-1933) houses an impressive range of American art, from sculptures to paintings to photographs. Through his friendship with Will Rogers, Carter developed an interest in the work of legendary Western artists Remington and Russell, and his extensive collection of their art is the basis for the museum.

About 10 miles to the west lies the **Texas Civil War Museum** (texascivilwarmuseum.com, 817-246-2323), one of the largest Civil War museums in the country. With more than 15,000 square feet of space, the museum showcases its selection with diplomacy by displaying Union exhibits on

its north side and Confederate items on the south. Uniforms, weapons, instruments, and photographs depict personal aspects of the war, along with a separate wing dedicated to an impressive Victorian dress collection.

Closer to downtown, several cultural districts are emerging from decades-long periods of neglect with revitalized historic residential and commercial buildings. Magnolia Street anchors the Near Southside District, with homes and buildings from the early 1900s serving as restaurants, galleries, and studios. Consider lodging a block away at the **Texas White House** (texaswhitehouse.com, 800-279-6491), which offers spacious rooms in a century-old house coupled with a hearty breakfast of inventive egg dishes, homemade pastries, and fresh fruit.

Just a few miles to the west, the Camp Bowie Historic District is revered for its brick streets, which once served as the Bankhead Highway, a major transcontinental roadway documented by the THC's Historic Highways Program. Among the district's highlights is **Kincaid's Hamburgers** (kincaidshamburgers.com, 817-732-2881), a former grocery store known throughout Texas for its mouth-watering burgers.



The Texas White House bed-and-breakfast is in Fort Worth's revitalized Near Southside District.

"These districts are right on the edge of downtown Fort Worth, and that's exactly what you want—a built-in base of customers and visitors creating a vibrant 24-hour area," Colley says. "There are a lot of undiscovered treasures in these historic districts, and interesting new places are popping up all the time in this city. We'll be here waiting for everyone to discover them!" ★

For information about other heritage tourism destinations in the Fort Worth area, download a free copy of the THC's *Texas Lakes Trail Region* travel guide at texastimetravel.com.

View more Fort Worth photos at www.thc.state.tx.us/blog.

Texas: ‘A Limitless Scenic Wonderland’

Century-old Colp Guide Captures Meridian Highway’s Magic

By Leslie Wolfenden

THC Historic Resources Survey Coordinator

Nearly 100 years ago, the Meridian International Road Association published *The Meridian Road in Texas*, a travel guide promoting the state’s newest highway. The Colp Guide, as it soon came to be known, was named after David E. Colp, the self-described “apostle of Good Roads” who served as president of the Meridian Highway Association’s Texas Division.

Colp also served as secretary and president of the Texas Good Roads Association and was crucial in the creation, development, and promotion of the state’s portion of the Meridian Highway, Old Spanish Trail, and Glacier to Gulf Highway. Today, Colp’s research still assists the Texas Historical Commission’s (THC) Texas Historic Highways Program with the Meridian Highway project—a comprehensive initiative to document the road billed as North America’s first international highway—named after the sixth principal meridian it roughly follows from Canada to Mexico City.

In 1915, Colp and his traveling party journeyed the Meridian Highway’s nearly 600 Texas miles from Burkburnett to Laredo, as well as the Gulf Division of the highway from Waco to Galveston, recording sights, landscapes, history, and the road itself. The resulting travel guide provided an

early map that depicted the route and the cities along its path, representing the state’s oldest detailed illustration of the highway.

The guide calls out local landmarks, such as county courthouses and city halls, hotels, garages, and tourist destinations for early automobile enthusiasts. The map notes mileage between cities and distances between important turns along the route.



Mission San Juan Capistrano was featured as a heritage tourist destination in the 100-year-old Meridian Road in Texas travel guide, right.

Short promotional descriptions of key cities along the route highlight their distinguishing histories and qualities in a whimsical fashion, such as the “magic waters” in Marlin, the watermelons in both Melon and Weatherford, the death of outlaw Sam Bass in Round Rock, and Wichita Falls’ “great artificial lake, where the fish are as big as whales and so tame they will almost eat out of your hand.”

These descriptions, under kitschy alliterative titles—“Decatur Not Decaying,” “Salado Sips Sulphur,”

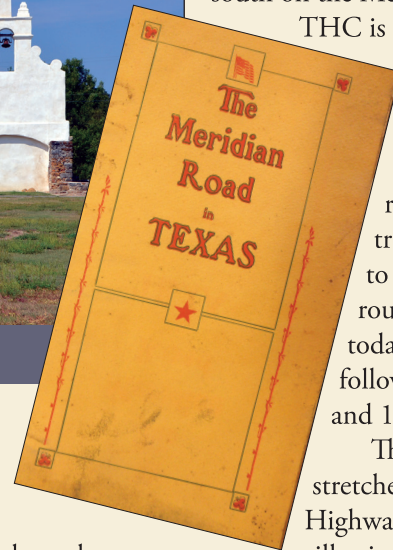
“Devine Divinely Delightful,” and “Hempstead Has Heavy Harvest”—encouraged motorists to stop, see, and explore. The guide was a promotion for the road, the cities, and the state of Texas, promising that travelers on the Meridian Highway would be privy to Texas’ “history; limitless scenic wonderland; untold hunting and fishing; captivating climatic conditions; fabulous virgin mineral wealth; and boundless industrial and commercial possibilities.”

One hundred years after Colp and company traversed the state north-to-south on the Meridian Highway, the

THC is following in their footsteps, or rather tire tracks, documenting the road and its associated historic resources for today’s travelers. In addition to the original Meridian route traveled by Colp, today’s team is also following the 1924, 1940, and 1960 alignments.

The quaint, undeveloped stretches of the Meridian Highway as observed by Colp still exist in places—as in between Alvord and Decatur in Wise County. In addition, some of the travel attractions highlighted in the guide remain notable heritage tourism destinations, including the missions in San Antonio, Fort Richardson in Jacksboro, and Cameron Park in Waco.

Additionally, as automobile travel increased after Colp’s trip and new alignments of the highway developed, more tourist attractions and businesses catering to motorists opened. Many





Meridian Highway travelers were encouraged to lodge at the Faust Hotel in New Braunfels.

have since become destinations in their own right, such as River Crest Park in Glen Rose, “Automobile Row” in San Antonio, and the Faust Hotel in New Braunfels.

The Meridian Highway today, though undoubtedly hosting more traffic, gas stations, and food and lodging options than Colp experienced, represents the vastness and beauty of Texas, with its bustling cities, impressive skyscrapers, courthouse squares, landscapes of oil derricks and pump jacks, rolling hills, and cotton fields that the Colp Guide so eloquently highlighted. For those making the journey along the historic Meridian Highway, these remain sights to behold.

The Meridian Highway project is funded by a transportation enhancement grant awarded to the THC from the Federal Highway Administration and administered by the Texas Department of Transportation. The THC awarded a contract to Hardy-Heck-Moore, Inc., an Austin-based historic preservation firm, which also undertook the recently completed Bankhead Highway project. ★

For additional information about the project and the Texas Historic Highways Program, visit www.thc.state.tx.us, or contact Leslie Wolfenden at 512-463-3386 or leslie.wolfenden@thc.state.tx.us.

A GREAT BIG CONVOY

By Rob Hodges

THC Senior Digital Media Coordinator

Last fall, I was fortunate to participate in a separate initiative of our agency’s Texas Historic Highways Program. I interviewed Dennis Boots, an organizer of the Military Vehicle Preservation Association’s (MVPA) 2015 Bankhead Highway Convoy, a 3,400-mile trek along the old Bankhead Highway from Washington, D.C. to San Diego completed last autumn. The MVPA’s convoy of restored military vehicles followed the 1920 route of the U.S. Army’s transcontinental motor convoy. (For more information, read the interview on our blog at www.thc.state.tx.us/blog/trek).

I was honored to participate with a small THC group in the convoy’s trek as it passed through North Texas. On October 4, a convoy rest day, members displayed their vehicles at Farrington Field in Fort Worth, and Mayor Betsy Price presented the MVPA with a proclamation. We distributed THC heritage travel guides, including the Bankhead Highway brochure, and told people about our Historic Bankhead Highway mobile tour.

The next day, I was invited to ride in the convoy to Mineral Wells and document the experience on social media. I rode with Team Golden Gate, represented by Traci and Randy Parent of San Francisco, in their Willys M38A1 Jeep.

We departed Farrington Field in the dark, but the pre-dawn chill was tempered by an excitement in the air as “America’s Longest Veterans Day Parade” rolled over the brick-paved Camp Bowie Boulevard past enthusiastic people on the way out of Fort Worth. All along the route, we were greeted by screaming crowds of people waving flags, saluting, and holding Bankhead Highway signs.

One especially touching moment was at the elementary school in the tiny town of Millsap, where all the classes poured out and rushed to the roadside to cheer us. When we reached the lunch stop at the National Vietnam War Museum outside Mineral Wells, I had experienced firsthand the immense pride Texans feel for their history, heritage, and military.



Sidebar: The recent Bankhead Highway Convoy featured restored military vehicles, pictured here en route from Fort Worth to Mineral Wells.

Touring Austin's Tejano Trails

Walking Trail Puts Decades of Cultural Heritage at Travelers' Feet

By Rob Hodges

THC Senior Digital Media Coordinator

At the intersection of East Second and Salina streets in East Austin lies a new condominium building that looks like much of the modern construction that has sprung up in the area. What's notable is what's no longer there: El Jardin Alegre (the Happy Garden), a site listed in Preservation Austin's Tejano Walking Trail guide, published in April 2010. The guide describes an idyllic garden with 40 plots, "where neighbors grow food together and build community."

Its disappearance is emblematic of rapidly changing—and historically layered—East Austin.

The 4.9-mile Tejano Walking Trail covers an incredible span of history, from the post-Civil War expansion of the railroad to the 2009 dedication of a Cesar Chavez statue at a library on his namesake street. The guide features 24 sites along the walking trail, plus an additional seven on the 5.6-mile Trail of Tejano Music Legends. The trails direct users through the heart of the East Cesar Chavez and Holly neighborhoods—a historically Hispanic area adjacent to downtown subjected to gentrification for more than a decade. In 2012, the U.S. Department of the Interior designated the trails as National

Recreation Trails, and both are featured in the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) Hispanic heritage travel guide and mobile tour.

The Tejano Walking Trail can be completed in as little as 2 1/2 hours, but more time is needed to read all the guide entries and interpretation, eat at one of the many area restaurants, or experience the Trail of Tejano Music Legends. Sites along the latter trail are more spread out and might best be covered by bike. Most sites on both

trails are accessible by car, although it is not recommended as some details are easily missed.

One example is the LBJ Historic Oak Grove at Robert Weaver Avenue. The miniature, horseshoe-shaped roadway could be mistaken for a parking lot. But venture into the development, and several hidden houses emerge from the trees. The residences were built as part of a national design competition in the late 1960s aimed at creating an inclusive development of low-cost, energy-efficient model homes that could be cheaply mass-produced. President Lyndon Baines Johnson was involved in securing land for the project, and he and Lady

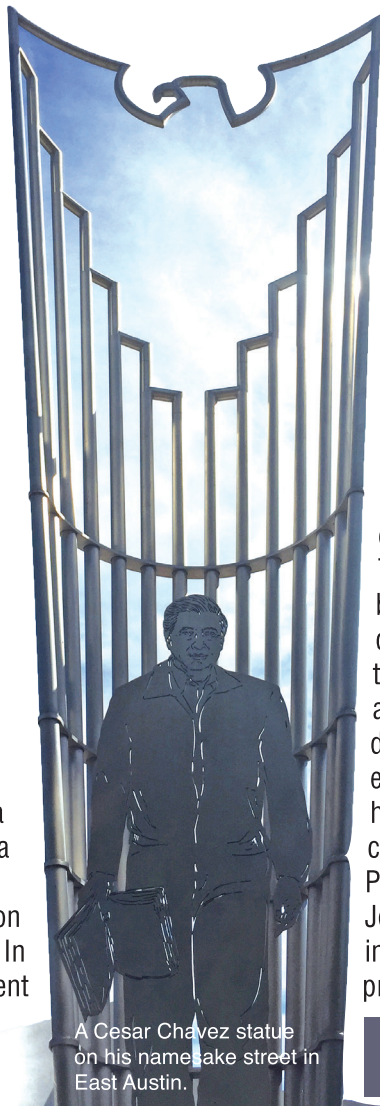
Bird Johnson donated the oak trees, reportedly transplanted from their Hill Country ranch. Ten homes were given to Hispanic and African American families who won a lottery, and President Johnson dedicated the homes in December 1968.

The land where the development is located was once part of a 30-acre federal fish hatchery, the entrance of which can be seen nearby on Haskell Street. According to the guide, the land was donated by the City of Austin to the U.S. Fish Commission in 1940, and 19 ponds were built to raise fish that stocked lakes and ponds in 39 Texas counties. In 1940–42, minority youth with the National Youth Administration Service built the fishery's ponds and buildings. Once a tourist and field trip destination, the hatchery closed in the 1960s, and most of the land was given to the nonprofit Austin Geriatrics Corporation, which built one of the city's first high-rise apartments there.

Additional sites along the Tejano Walking Trail include one of the nation's first public housing developments; a church where Cesar Chavez spoke and attended Mass in 1973; and the National Register-listed Willow-Spence Historic District. ★

If you go...

The Tejano Walking Trail guide is available at preservationaustin.org. The area is brimming with hip cafes, restaurants, and bars—for traditional fare, head to Cisco's, an East Sixth Street eatery that has served Tex-Mex classics since 1948; contemporary Mexican cuisine is on the menu at Takoba on East Seventh Street.



A Cesar Chavez statue on his namesake street in East Austin.

View more Tejano Trail photos at www.thc.state.tx.us/blog.

A Must-See Stop for Castroville Visitors

Experience the Remarkable Restorations at Landmark Inn State Historic Site

By Heather McBride
THC Senior Communications Specialist

Imagine spending a leisurely day exploring the historic grounds of a former hotel, surrounded by the soothing sounds of a river's steady flow and the fascinating remains of a gristmill. Afterward, your lodging awaits in a nearby historic building, allowing you to remain on site in this one-of-a-kind Texas heritage destination.

The Landmark Inn State Historic Site, one of the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) 20 historic properties, beckons travelers to Castroville, a small community 20 miles west of San Antonio on the banks of the Medina River. This now-peaceful landscape was once a thriving hub of commerce, and one of the last hotels and provisioning points travelers would encounter as Americans ventured westward. The site recently underwent a major two-year renovation and historic preservation project, which was celebrated at a grand reopening event on December 5, 2015.

Castroville was founded in 1844 by Henri Castro, for whom the town is named. The first European emigrant settlers in the area were mainly Catholic farmers from the French region of Alsace (bordering France, Germany, and Switzerland), who were brought over to fulfill Castro's contract to colonize vacant Texas land.

Built in the 1840s and expanded in the 1850s, Landmark Inn began as a general store and small hotel. Today, the inn's friendly staff welcomes guests with the same hospitality as yesteryear. The newly restored buildings and grounds provide five scenic acres of paths to stroll and gardens to enjoy. The preservation project included structural repairs and improvements as well as new amenities



A two-year restoration of Landmark Inn State Historic Site was celebrated at a grand reopening event on December 5, 2015.

for overnight guests at the bed-and-breakfast.

"This massive restoration project is a landmark of historic preservation for Castroville and the state of Texas," said Chris Floyd, site manager at Landmark Inn.

A major part of the preservation project involved removing most of the plaster from the former Vance Hotel, named after John Vance who purchased the property in 1853. Vance felt travelers needed more than just a store—they needed a place to stay. He added a second story to the store along with first and second floor galleries to create the hotel.

Work included repointing limestone masonry and applying a new coat of plaster and paint, all of which was completed exclusively with hand tools. A new retaining wall helps define the original path of the Old San Antonio Road into Castroville, and protects several historic structures from erosion. Also, virtually all of the windows and doors on site were restored while preserving as much of their original fabric as possible.

An ADA-accessible path was established through the site, while three of the inn's eight guest rooms were made wheelchair accessible. Overnight guests will appreciate the quiet central HVAC systems as well as historically appropriate furnishings, flooring, and décor. Various other electrical, plumbing, and mechanical repairs were also completed, all of

which will help Landmark Inn serve new generations of visitors.

A new museum gallery exhibit and several outdoor interpretive signs are in development and will be completed by Summer 2016. Outdoor opportunities also abound at the site, including walking trails, biking, picnicking, and fishing (license required). This project marks the first major historic preservation work conducted on site since the 1970s, and it reflects the THC's commitment to managing and protecting cultural resources while providing enjoyable educational opportunities for the public.

"Visitors can expect not only physical improvements to the site but operational ones as well," Floyd said. "We'll be offering a range of new educational opportunities for school groups as well as fun, family programs for young and old alike." ★

LANDMARK INN STATE HISTORIC SITE
 402 E. Florence St.
 Castroville, TX 78009
 830-931-2133
visitlandmarkinn.com

Latimers Receive Governor's Award for Historic Preservation

Gov. Greg Abbott and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) recently presented Dr. Truett and Harriet Latimer with the Governor's Award for Historic Preservation at the Texas State Capitol. The award recognizes the highest achievement of an individual or organization in the preservation of Texas' prehistoric and historic resources.



From left: Gov. Greg Abbott, Harriet Latimer, Dr. Truett Latimer, THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe, and THC Chair John L. Nau, III are pictured at the award presentation.

Truett Latimer's life of public service has revolved around historic preservation. He served five terms as state representative, helping coordinate legislative support for the Texas State Historical Survey Committee (the original name of the THC) to advance historic preservation and history education. During his subsequent tenure as THC executive director from 1965 to 1981 and the first State Historic Preservation Officer of Texas, he initiated programs that remain key parts of the agency's mission today.

Harriet Latimer has dedicated her career to philanthropy and development, serving many preservation organizations across Texas. As founding chair of the Friends of the Texas

Historical Commission, she is instrumental in many of the THC's preservation projects and educational programs. She played a key role in securing funding for the excavation of *La Belle*, after its discovery by THC archeologists.

"From architecture to marine archeology, every facet of historic preservation in Texas has benefitted from the efforts of Truett and Harriet Latimer," said THC Executive Director Mark Wolfe. "Together they have created strong organizations that have made a real impact on our state and ensured that Texas' proud and important heritage will inspire new generations."

The Governor's Award for Historic Preservation is the THC's highest honor and is presented annually during a special ceremony arranged with the governor's office. For more information, contact the THC's History Programs Division at 512-463-5853 or visit www.thc.state.tx.us/awards. ★

TAKE A BREAK FROM THE INTERSTATE WITH FREE TRAVEL APPS

The THC's new mobile tour, "Town Square Walk Around," offers travelers a fun opportunity to take a break from the interstate and explore 13 historic Texas cities between Gainesville and Laredo.

The tour highlights a range of intriguing features and architecture by examining three types of town layouts—Spanish plaza, railroad, and courthouse. While each community is unique, users can discover common patterns and characteristics shared between the cities, which range in population from 2,800 to almost 2 million. Through the tour, users walk around the town squares, main streets, and plazas of the historic towns, revealing their beginning and evolution into the walkable cultural landscape of today through multimedia features.

"Town Square Walk Around" is free and available for download on Android or iOS devices, and the THC's travel website texasimetravel.com/get-guides. ★

SAVE THE DATE: AUSTIN HERITAGE TOURISM EVENT TO BE HELD JUNE 13–15

Do you have a passion for the unique heritage destinations in your community? Do you wish visitors from Texas, the U.S., and the world knew about them and added them to their "must-see" list when they visit Texas? If so, the THC and the Texas Heritage Trails Regions have an event for you!

Join heritage tourism stakeholders, supporters, and leaders June 13–15 in Austin for the THC's first-ever heritage tourism symposium. Save the date now, and look for updates soon on TexasTimeTravel.com. ★

New Orientation

THC Recommends Programs and Priorities for CHCs

By Amy Hammons
County Historical Commission Outreach Coordinator

In the late 1950s, members of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee first trained County Historical Survey Committees on effective preservation practices. Although the names have changed—survey committees to commissions—our agency's commitment to providing essential training to local partners across Texas remains.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) continues to offer educational opportunities to County Historical Commissions (CHC) throughout the year. THC workshops are designed to address the needs of individuals and organizations interested in history and preservation by addressing topics such as markers, museums, tourism, and community engagement.

The CHC Outreach Program develops training specifically for CHCs, and our updated orientation material reflects what we have learned from CHCs since the program's inception in 2008. Here's a breakdown of the 2016 orientation agenda:

Part 1: The Role of a CHC Appointee.

This section addresses appointee responsibilities based on state statutory

directives. The presentation includes an overview of THC web material regarding CHC structure, as well as suggestions for cultivating commitment among appointees.

Part 2: THC-Recommended Activities.

This orientation section fulfills the THC's state statutory responsibility to recommend projects and programs to CHCs. Staff specialists have identified priorities within THC programs, and the presentation introduces new methods for planning and delegating work within a CHC.

Part 3: THC-Recommended Protocol.

This section walks appointees through state and federal review examples to illustrate CHC stakeholder responsibilities and opportunities. The content explains how THC staff



CHC appointees are pictured at a previous preservation conference discussing the role of a CHC and ongoing challenges.

can help CHCs navigate complex regulatory processes.

Part 4: CHC Discussion Groups.

Earlier sections enable the THC to present information to CHCs. This section allows appointees to speak to THC staff, partners, and other CHCs about timely issues. ★

More information about CHC orientation locations and dates is available at www.thc.state.tx.us/chctrain.

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Our Mission

To protect and preserve the state's historic and prehistoric resources for the use, education, enjoyment, and economic benefit of present and future generations.

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WHERE ON EARTH...IN TEXAS

Know your Texas history? Put your skills to the test by identifying the pictured site! The first three people who correctly identify the location will receive a prize and be named in the next issue of *The Medallion*. Send your answer to: *The Medallion*, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276 or email to medallion@thc.state.tx.us. Limit one prize annually per contestant.

Need a clue? These ruins in the Texas Pecos Trail Region date to the 1860s, when the U.S. Army rebuilt several former frontier fort structures.



Answer to the photo from the last issue: The photo at left was taken at Our Savior's Lutheran Cemetery in the Norse community near Clifton. King Olav V of Norway visited the cemetery in 1982 to honor the 200th anniversary of Cleng Peerson's birth (the "Norwegian Pathfinder of America"). Many readers correctly responded, but congratulations and prizes go to the first three who correctly identified the site: Tina DeLong of

San Angelo, Laura Fincher of Texarkana, and Carl Sweeney of Itasca. Thanks to all who participated! ★

